



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW – Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

--Media Advisory--

Public Hearing Scheduled on Electronic Voting

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As the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) prepares to distribute \$2.3 billion dollars in grants to States for upgrading election equipment, it has scheduled a public hearing to receive information on the use, security and reliability of electronic voting devices.

The EAC hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 5 at EPA Headquarters, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Room 3000, in the Rachel L. Carson Great Hall of the Ariel Rios North Building in Washington, DC. (Federal Triangle Metro Stop on the Blue and Orange lines.)

The daylong event will feature testimony from five distinct and diverse panels of witnesses. Included for presentation are: a Technology Panel, Vendor Panel, Election Administrator Panel, Research Panel and Advocacy Organization Panel.

This hearing follows a series of primary election visits by Commissioners to States that have made substantial changes to their voting systems in preparation for the 2004 presidential election. The States are upgrading equipment in order meet new federal requirements set forth in the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

At their first public meeting on March 23, the bipartisan EAC voted unanimously to conduct a hearing on electronic voting. The May 5th hearing will focus on the reliability and security of electronic voting devices. The hearing will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., featuring oral testimony by witnesses, followed by questioning by EAC Commissioners.

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*The U.S. Election Assistance Commission was created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The Commission is charged with administering voluntary guidelines for election requirements under HAVA, maintaining a clearinghouse of information regarding election administration procedures including testing and certification of election equipment, and administering the Election Assistance and Help America Vote Programs.